

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 32 and 38 as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-31 Cancelled.

32. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for the insertion of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:

an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending completely through the seal assembly;

a cylindrical wall protector ~~extending~~ integrally formed with the upper surface at the throughbore to project inwardly into an interior portion of the upper body portion at the throughbore;

a lower body portion projecting below the upper body portion wherein the lower body portion defines a cannula receiving opening adapted to mount the seal assembly on the cannula; and

a unitary valve seal comprising;

an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted in the upper body portion adjacent an interior portion of the upper body portion, said interior portion opposing the upper surface, the upper seal portion being mounted about the throughbore, the

cylindrical wall protector located between the throughbore and upper seal wall~~extending~~
~~between the throughbore and the~~ and extending into the upper seal portion; and

a lower seal portion extending from the upper seal portion, the lower seal portion being adapted to seal around the surgical instrument.

33. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the upper body portion further comprises an inner support member extending inwardly into the interior portion of the upper body.

34. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the inner support member includes a shoulder.

35. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the lower body portion comprises a transition wall which mates the upper body portion to the lower body portion, the transition wall is sloped.

36. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 35, further comprising a shoulder extending from the transition wall into an interior portion of the lower body portion, the shoulder of the transition wall mating with the shoulder of the inner support member.

37. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 36, further comprising a seal positioned between the shoulder of the inner support member and the shoulder of the transition wall.

38. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the ~~upper valve seal portion has a generally~~ is formed as a frusto-conical lower sealing member and having a first taper tapered wall that is ~~has a taper~~ different from a second ~~taper tapered wall~~.

39. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the valve seal includes a reinforcing layer.